

PATENT
450100-04709**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-6 are currently pending. Claim 1 is independent.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0004984 to Chou (referred to in the Office Action as "David").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the office action does not address every element recited in the claim.

**A. THE REJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN
BECAUSE THE OFFICE ACTION MISSTATES
THE CLAIM ELEMENTS**

The Office Action of July 27, 2006 misstates the elements of claim 1 and, thus, incorrectly rejects the claims over the cited references. The Office Action cites claim 1 as reciting: wherein, in response to a user request from any one compatible with the type of the terminal apparatus used by the requesting user for connection to the system, the converted data being used by said terminal apparatus through which said requesting user has sent said use request. **This is not correct.**

The correct element recited in claim 1 is:

PATENT
450100-04709

“wherein, in response to a use request from any user other than the user in question, said data format converting means converts stored data in said file storing means into a format compatible with the type of the terminal apparatus used by the requesting user for connection to the system, the converted data being used by said terminal apparatus through which said requesting user has sent said use request.” (emphasis added).

The emphasized language is, in part, the amendment made by the Applicants in reply to the Office Action of February 7, 2006. The present Office Action fails to address the amendment and, thus, must be withdrawn.

**B. THE CITED REFERENCES DO NOT
DISCLOSE EACH AND EVERY ELEMENT
IN THE CLAIMS**

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“connecting means for connecting said data storage unit of said service provider with one or more terminal apparatuses associated with each of said users via said computer network independently of types of said terminal apparatuses

...
wherein, in response to a use request from any user other than the user in question, said data format converting means converts stored data in said file storing means into a format compatible with the type of the terminal apparatus used by the requesting user for connection to the system, the converted data being used by said terminal apparatus through which said requesting user has sent said use request.” (emphasis added).

As understood by the Applicants, Chou discloses a transcoder server to transcode a first webpage language to a second language for a mobile phone or to create personal wireless webpages and store the created personal webpages in a user's profile database for future use. The output can be selected and outputted according to the used mobile phone or PDA. Thus, in Chou the transcoded pages are associated only with the user's mobile phone or PDA. There is no disclosure that the transcoded pages of one user (“user in question” of the present application) are distributed to other users.

PATENT
450100-04709

In contrast, claim 1 recites, "one or more terminal apparatuses associated with each of said users." In present invention there are multiple users each being able to access the stored data of other users through any of the one or more terminal apparatuses.

Moreover, claim 1 also recites, "wherein, in response to a use request from any user other than the user in question, said data format converting means converts stored data in said file storing means into a format compatible with the type of the terminal apparatus used by the requesting user for connection to the system, the converted data being used by said terminal apparatus through which said requesting user has sent said use request."

Thus, in the present invention, data from the apparatus of a user in question (who provided data to the system) is provided to a requesting user other than the user in question in a format compatible to the requesting user. That is, in the present invention, there are multiple users connected to the system, each user having one or more terminal apparatuses. The system stores data from each user's respective terminal apparatus. In response to a request from another user other than the user who stored the data, the system converts the data stored by the user into a format compatible with the terminal apparatus of the another user and provides the data in the compatible format.

This feature is not disclosed in Chou because that reference does not disclose a data storage system serving multiple users each having a plurality of data devices wherein data is transferred from one user in a certain format to another user using a different format.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Chou in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0037241 to Puri.

PATENT
450100-04709

Puri does not add the element missing from Chou as discussed above.

Further, claim 2 recites, *inter alia*:

"... data disclosure controlling means to enable each user to manage the use conditions under which the respective stored data in said data storing means are allowed to be used;

... wherein said data disclosure controlling means enables the data for which said use conditions have been set by each user to be used by users other than the user who stored the data in question into said data storing means." (emphasis added).

Thus, claim 2 adds the additional element that the storage system enables each user to manage the conditions of use for their respective stored data. Further, the storage system enables each user to set the use conditions for differently for each respective other user.

Claim 2 is patentable over Chou and Puri for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the additional reasons discussed with respect to claim 2.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.


PATENT
450100-04709

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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